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## Bills filed this week

**MAGGIE ROTERMUND**

Bulletin Staff Writer

Sen. Shawn Womack, R-Mountain Home, filed Senate Bill 772 this week. The proposed legislation would appropriate funds for a State Crime Laboratory — Mountain Home Satellite Crime Lab.

The legislation comes after law enforcement officials from across the state converged on Mountain Home in January to discuss the possibility. The proposed facility would be on the campus of Arkansas State University Mountain Home.

ASUMH Chancellor Ed Coulter had an architect do a rendering; he estimates initial building costs at around \$405,000. The cost does not include sidewalks, parking lot and utilities.

Operational costs could run an estimated \$560,000 per biennium.

J.R. Howard, director of the crime lab, expressed concerns about the location of the lab while at the meeting but said he was excited to see people interested in reducing the backlog.

The Crime Lab is responsible for autopsies, ballistic evidence, blood work, DNA tests, fingerprint analysis, hair samples and handwriting analysis for the Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 300 police departments and the state's 75 sheriffs' departments.

Other bills offered by local legislators include:

**Sen. Shawn Womack**

**R-Mountain Home**

- SB 46 — An act to extend service credit to all Arkansas local police and fire retirement system members with at least five years of service in the system. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs.
- SB 74 — The Unborn Child Pain Awareness and Prevention Act of 2005. The bill was read Jan. 13 and referred to the Senate Committee on Public

*Bills filed by local legislators that have passed both houses and now await Gov. Mike Huckabee's signature are:*

**Sen. Shawn Womack, R-Mtn. Home**

- SB 2 — An act to provide physical education course credit for participation in school sports activities.

**Rep. Johnny Key, R-Mtn. Home**

- HB 1543 — The Biobased Products Act of 2005.

- HB 1876 — A General Improvement Appropriation act for state assistance to the Baxter County Library for purchase of land, construction and equipping of facilities.

- HB 1959 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for state assistance to community organizations in Mountain Home for improvements.

**Rep. Monty Davenport, D-Yellville**

- HB 1800 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for state assistance to various senior centers in House District 86 for debt retirement.

- HB 1801 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for fire departments in House District 86.



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Health, Welfare and Labor. The bill was amended Thursday and re-referred to committee.

- SB 421 — An act to authorize the Legislative Auditor to audit the records of the Association of Arkansas Counties and the Arkansas Municipal League. It was referred to the Senate Committee on City, County and Local Affairs.
- SB 444 — An act to provide for the detention of a person under 21 years of age for attempting to purchase alcohol with false identification and to authorize an arrest for an attempted purchase of alcohol with false identification. It was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- SB 445 — An act to provide that the presence of alcohol in the body of a minor constitutes unlawful consumption or possession. It was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- SB 575 — An act to revise the costs eligible for grant assistance from the Solid Waste Management & Recycling Fund. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor.
- SB 576 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for North Arkansas College Multipurpose Building. The bill was referred to the Joint Budget Committee Feb. 24.
- SB 599 — An act to amend the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management Act to clarify that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality has authority to require corrective action at permitted and interim facilities. It was amended Wednesday.
- SB 770 — An act for the State Crime Laboratory — Mountain Home Satellite Crime Laboratory appropriation for the 2005-2007 biennium. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee Monday.
- SB 771 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for Arkansas State University Mountain Home for equipment and maintenance. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee Monday.
- SB 977 — An act concerning bills referred to the Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security programs. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Legislative Affairs.
- SB 981 — An act concerning the duties of the Department of Health to protect young children and concerning mature video and computer software games. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor.

#### **Rep. Johnny Key**

##### **R-Mountain Home**

- HB 1229 — An act to amend the laws of the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, pertaining to certain city employees who are members of APERS. The bill was read on Jan. 24

## **Governor signs bills filed by local lawmakers**

*As the 85th General Assembly progresses in Little Rock, bills filed by local legislators are progressing through the system. Several local bills have been signed into law by Gov. Mike Huckabee.*

#### **Sen. Shawn Womack**

##### **R-Mountain Home**

- **Act 244** — An act for Arkansas State University Mountain Home Health Science Building General Improvement appropriation.

Womack's legislation could appropriate up to \$2.4 million in General Improvement Fund money to the Health Sciences Building fund.

- **Act 391** — A general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance and Administration for state assistance to the Van Matre Senior Center.

- **Act 392** — An general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance and Administration for state assistance to the Boone County Senior Center for the purchase of a van.

- **Act 524** — An general Improvement Fund appropriation act for the Department of Finance & Administration for state assistance to the Marion County Senior Center for purchase of a van.

#### **Rep. Johnny Key**

##### **R-Mountain Home**

- **Act 94** — Allows an income tax deduction for contributions made to a health savings account. Key co-sponsored the legislation with Rep. Will Bond, D-Jacksonville. Signed into law Feb. 11.

- **Act 192** — An act to amend the Youth Services Act. It amends a policy in which juvenile judges commit juvenile offenders to the Division of Youth Services in Alexander for

and referred to the Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs.

- **HB 1249** — An act to provide a work exemption for high school students who are gainfully employed. It amends Act 675 of 2003 requiring high school students to attend a full school day. The bill was read Jan. 26 and referred to the House Committee on Education.
- **HB 1548** — The Teacher Relief Act of 2005. The legislation was filed Feb. 10 and referred to the House Committee on Revenue and Taxation.
- **HB 1590** — The Department of Human Services Operational Flexibility Act. The act was filed Feb. 11 and referred to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor.
- **HB 1593** — An act to provide that the child care credit for qualified individuals with children in an approved child-care facility is 60 percent of the federal income tax credit. It was referred to the House Committee on Revenue and Taxation.
- **HB 1667** — An act to allow campaign contributions for funding an election recount. It was filed Feb. 14 and referred to the House Rules Committee.
- **HB 1768** — An act to provide for an administrative suspension of a driver's license for the offense of possession of alcohol by a minor. It was referred to House Rules Committee.
- **HB 1769** — An act to provide enhanced penalties in certain circumstances for furnishing an alcoholic beverage to a person under 21 years of age if a motor vehicle accident is proximately caused by consumption of the alcoholic beverage. It was referred to House Rules Committee.
- **HB 1809** — An act to ensure the financial viability of the Radiation Control Program of the Department of Health. The House voted 87-2 Wednesday to approve the bill; Rep. Curren Everett did not vote. The bill was referred to the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.
- **HB 1877** — An act to amend the powers of the Arkansas Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Benefits Act and to require review and evaluation of Insurance Mandate Legislation. The bill was referred to the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.
- **HB 2015** — An act to amend the Private Enforcement Provisions of the Patient Protection Act of 1995 and the Patient Protection Act of 2005. The House Public Health, Welfare & Labor Committee recommended its passage Thursday.
- **HB 2444** — An act to include licensed physical therapists as practitioners for purposes of the Medical, Nursing, Hospital & Ambulance Service Lien Act. It was referred to the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.
- **HB 2575** — The informed medical consumer act

contempt of court. Signed into law Feb. 25.

- **Act 193** — An act to provide alternative forms of financial assurance for licensed installers and testers of underground storage tanks. Signed into law Feb. 18.
- **Act 200** — An act to clarify the law regarding the putative father registry. It clarifies the notification requirements to the fathers when there are legal proceedings that affect children. Signed into law Feb. 18.
- **Act 246** — The Student Identity Protection Act. The Student Identity Protection Act would prohibit the use of Social Security numbers as a means of identifying students.
- **Act 293** — A general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance and Administration for state assistance to ASUMH for the Community Development Center.
- **Act 294** — A general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance and Administration for \$25,000 to the Van Matre Senior Center for the purchase of a van.
- **Act 371** — A general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance & Administration for assistance to the Arkansas Advisory Commission on mandated health benefits.
- **Act 437** — An act to clarify the law regarding adoption consent and subsidized adoptions. It is a companion bill that clarifies certain portions of the Arkansas Code dealing with adoption as it relates to putative fathers.
- **Act 456** — A general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance and Administration for state assistance to fire departments and related entities in Baxter County.
- **Act 457** — A general improvement appropriation act for the Department of Finance and Administration for state assistance to the Baxter County Fair Association.

of 2005.

- HB 2576 — An act to provide that lawn care and landscaping services are not subject to gross receipts tax.
- HB 2604 — An act to authorize the Department of Human Services to communicate with a child's school concerning matters related to the child's ability to learn.

#### **Rep. Monty Davenport**

##### **D-Yellville**

- HB 1468 — An act to provide general permit authority for open-cut mining operations. The bill was approved by the House Feb. 18 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Economic for its review. It recommended passage this week.
- HB 1611 — An act to allow discretionary spending of moneys in the Arkansas Child Passenger Protection Fund. The House Committee on Public Transportation recommended passage this week.
- HB 2327 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for state support to the city of Big Flat in Baxter County for a walking trail. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee.
- HB 2328 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for state support to the Marion County Fair Board for building improvements. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee.

#### **Rep. Curren Everett**

##### **D-Salem**

- HB 1685 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for Ozarka College — Ash Flat Secondary Center. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee.
- HB 1703 — An act for the Department of Finance and Administration for a General Improvement Fund appropriation for fire departments in Baxter County. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee and an amendment was adopted Tuesday. It awaits a vote by the full House.
- HB 1704 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for fire departments in Fulton and Sharp counties. It was referred to the Joint Budget Committee.
- HB 2307 — A General Improvement Fund appropriation act for the Fulton County Senior Center. Referred to the Joint Budget Committee.
- HB 2420 — An act to clarify Arkansas Code 14-14-1001 concerning County Courts. The House Committee on City, County and Local Affairs recommended passage Friday.

To see the text of these bills, or to check on the status of any bills that have been introduced, visit the Legislature's Web site at <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/>.

[maggier@baxterbulletin.com](mailto:maggier@baxterbulletin.com)

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#### **Rep. Monty Davenport**

##### **D-Yellville**

- **Act 253** — An act to remove portions of the upper White River watershed from nutrient surplus area designation. The bill passed the House by a vote of 83-7 Feb. 9 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development.

Gov. Huckabee signed it Feb. 24.



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